

RATING

97

**Mount Pleasant 1880 Vines Old Hill  
Vineyard Hunter Valley Shiraz 2013**

Variety: Shiraz

Drink by: 2053

Region: Hunter Valley

Date tasted: 10/3/2015

Alcohol:13.5%

Full crimson-purple; the immaculate balance of this medium-bodied shiraz is the wellspring for its present and long term future; it isn't flashy or oaky, the winemaking team confident that its sheer class will slowly reveal yet another facet as each decade rolls by; the black fruits and earthy Hunter Valley tannins invest the palate with fantastic length.

RATING

98

**Mount Pleasant 1946 Vines Rosehill  
Vineyard Hunter Valley Shiraz 2013**

Variety: Shiraz

Drink by: 2063

Region: Hunter Valley

Date tasted: 10/3/2015

Alcohol:13.5%

Charles King planted the Old Hill, but O'Shea recognised the same red volcanic soil on Rosehill; the impact of this wine is immediate and striking, its medium-bodied palate full of juicy red and black fruits which demand to be swallowed, not ejected. Rosehill wasn't given the care it deserved in prior decades, but better late than never. The 1880 Vines Old Hill is a cerebral wine, Rosehill goes straight to the heart.

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RATING

92

**Mount Pleasant B-Side Airport Block  
Lovedale Vineyard Field Blend 2014**

Variety: White  
GenericsBlends  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2023  
Date tasted: 27/3/2015  
Alcohol:11%

Semillon plus X, Y and Z; I'm not sure X, Y and Z add much to the power of the semillon, it very much to the fore of the long, driving palate, grass, citrus and a bucket of mineral.

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RATING

95

**Mount Pleasant B-Side CF14 Shiraz  
Montils 2014**

Variety: Shiraz Blend  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2040  
Date tasted: 27/3/2015  
Alcohol:13%

Light, bright crimson-scarlet; the bouquet is highly fragrant, the palate a ravishingly juicy array of red fruits, tannins and oak barely making a mark; it is only light to medium-bodied, but don't be fooled: this will coast through many decades.

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RATING

95

**Mount Pleasant Eight Acres Semillon 2014**

Variety: Semillon  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2029  
Date tasted: 27/3/2015  
Alcohol:11.5%

A particularly fine semillon that has its parallels with Porongurup riesling: both are deceptively light when young, and grow slowly, but with absolute certainty over 10-20 years. This wine starts with more mid-palate fruit than the bouquet suggests, the length and balance impeccable.

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RATING

96

**Mount Pleasant Elizabeth Hunter Valley Semillon 2009**

Variety: Semillon  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2029  
Date tasted: 27/3/2015  
Alcohol:10.5%

Cellar Aged. The price of this wine was checked twice with Mount Pleasant (aka McWilliam's), and is unbelievable. It is as fresh as a daisy; the colour is still pale, perhaps a touch greener than the '14 Elizabeth, the bouquet now speaking of variety and place, and the lemon/lemongrass flavours of the palate insistent and persistent, not heavy.

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RATING

94

**Mount Pleasant Elizabeth Hunter Valley Semillon 2014**

Variety: Semillon  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2025  
Date tasted: 27/3/2015  
Alcohol:11%

A very different proposition to Eight Acres, with a more lacy and immediately accessible structure, even a hint of tropical fruit, before unsweetened lemon and mineral sashays across the long palate.

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RATING

95

**Mount Pleasant Leontine Hunter Valley Chardonnay 2013**

Variety: Chardonnay  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2025  
Date tasted: 27/3/2015  
Alcohol:13%

It was inevitable that Mount Pleasant would also raise the bar with its chardonnay. It is as fresh as a cloudless spring day, slippery/catchy acidity probing and catching all corners of the mouth. One thing missing in action is overt oak, the one thing driving the wine is its acidity intermingled with white peach and apple fruit.

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RATING

96

**Mount Pleasant Lovedale Single Vineyard  
Hunter Valley Semillon 2010**

Variety: Semillon  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2035  
Date tasted: 22/3/2015  
Alcohol:10%

Still as fresh as a daisy, its freshness accentuated by a touch of CO2 spritz deliberately left in the wine; the result is an unusual conjunction of delicacy and intensity, the explanation lying in its purity. It is truly difficult to visualise the end point of a semillon such as this.

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RATING

98

**Mount Pleasant Maurice O'Shea Shiraz  
2013**

Variety: Shiraz  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2063  
Date tasted: 27/3/2015  
Alcohol:13.5%

Full, bright crimson-purple; one or two Maurice O'Shea releases since '87 have lacked drive and/or complexity, this is on the far extreme of high quality, pulsating with opulent, yet perfectly balanced and detailed red and black fruits; the silk and satin mouthfeel reflects the fruit on the one hand, a fine web of ripe tannins and grainy acidity on the other.

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RATING

90

**Mount Pleasant Mothervine Hunter Valley  
Pinot Noir 2013**

Variety: Pinot Noir  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2024  
Date tasted: 7/9/2014  
Alcohol:12%

Grown on the pinot noir block at the front of the Mount Pleasant winery, the 'mothervines' to so much of the pinot noir propagated around the vineyards of Australia; it's the source of the famed MV6 clone. The '11 was 14.5% alcohol; this release is 12%. It feels it. It's a slight, slender wine, built on acid and strings of tannin, notes of mulch, nuts and dried herbs as integral as the wine's dry cherry/mulberry notes. It's more idiosyncratic than classic. Built for consumption as a mature wine far more than it is in its youth.

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RATING

97

**Mount Pleasant Mountain A Medium Bodied Dry Red 2011**

Variety: Shiraz  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2051  
Date tasted: 27/3/2015  
Alcohol:13.5%

This tries to be a vinous tearjerker recreation of one of O'Shea's most celebrated wines, starting with an original label lookalike (this more a la mode). The bouquet is more pure, the mouthwatering palate more single-minded as it makes its assault on the taste buds. The grainy acidity of the Mount Pleasant releases is quite remarkable, extending the length like a magician's wand.

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RATING

98

**Mount Pleasant Mountain D Full Bodied Dry Red 2011**

Variety: Shiraz  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2051  
Date tasted: 31/3/2015  
Alcohol:13.5%

This shiraz may be full-bodied, and would likely have been recognised as such by Maurice O'Shea. However, don't think it's full-bodied on a Barossa slide rule. It doesn't come from dense, ripe fruit, rather it comes from the supple and velvety fruit, and its inbuilt tannins; red fruits, black fruits, spice, earth and cedar are all there. I fell head over heels in love with this wine as I matched it with food over several nights after the initial tasting.

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RATING

97

**Mount Pleasant Old Paddock Old Hill Hunter Valley Shiraz 2013**

Variety: Shiraz  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2048  
Date tasted: 27/3/2015  
Alcohol:13.5%

Excellent hue; as with all the Mount Pleasant '13 Shiraz releases, the bouquet offers something new each time you return to it, this with gently warm earth and roast meat nuances; the palate is also Scarlet Pimpernel-like, at one moment with juicy red fruits, the next with savoury, bramble notes glued to fine tannins.

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RATING

96

**Mount Pleasant Rosehill Vineyard Hunter Valley Shiraz 2013**

Variety: Shiraz  
Region: Hunter Valley

Drink by: 2043  
Date tasted: 22/3/2015  
Alcohol:13%

Bright, clear crimson; gloriously fragrant, and a perfect example of the path that Hunter Valley shiraz is pursuing with a single-minded obsession: flavour born of alcohol in the plus or minus 13% range that has freshness and effortless balance as its core belief, bringing with it a razor-sharp sense of place different to any other region in Australia.